

## Fall 2022 Worship and Sacraments Exam

### Section I: Reformed Liturgical Heritage

You serve as the pastor of Southfork Presbyterian Church. The session recently approved the celebration of communion every Sunday. During a meeting of the session, the following conversation ensues:

- Charles: I like our weekly communion, but I am afraid that we are not being careful enough about who is participating.
- Sue: I see the Smiths have been coming, but since they are not members we can't even be sure they are baptized.
- Ellie: Why don't we go to a system where only baptized people can take communion?
- Pamela: That is a start, but I am still concerned that people we don't know might come to the table anyway and take communion when they are not worthy of it.
- Syngman: The Lord's Supper always makes me feel closer to God. Isn't there something to be said about coming to the table as a way of strengthening our relationship with God?

**REQUIRED RESPONSES:** (*Total responses for this Section not to exceed 1,200 words.*)

1. Using *The Book of Confessions* and guided by the provisions of the Directory for Worship, articulate **a Reformed understanding of the Lord's Supper as a means of grace**. Cite by number (e.g., 0.000) at least one (1) passage from at least three (3) different documents of *The Book of Confessions* to support your discussion. All references to the Directory for Worship must cite the paragraph number (e.g., W-0.0000).
2. Informed by your response to Required Response 1, write an original invitation to the Lord's Supper.
3. Informed by your answers in Required Responses 1 and 2, write a brief newsletter article explaining who may receive the Lord's Supper. Do not sign any name to the newsletter article.

## Section II: Constructive Theological Reflection on Worship

Each Sunday as pastor of First Presbyterian Church, you include in your intercessory prayers during worship a petition for God to help members of your congregation be good stewards of creation. Your words vary from Sunday to Sunday, but there is always some reference to awareness of and care for the natural environment. At the end of a Sunday service, a member named John pulls you aside to express his concern that your prayers in worship are “too political” because you are “always talking about the environment.”

**REQUIRED RESPONSES:** *(Total responses for this section not to exceed 1,200 words.)*

1. Guided by the provisions of the Directory for Worship, **articulate a Reformed understanding of stewardship of the natural world.** All references to the Directory for Worship must cite the paragraph number (e.g., W-0.0000).
2. Informed by your answer in Required Response 1 and using appropriate pastoral sensitivity, describe briefly how you would respond to John’s concern.
3. Informed by your answer in Required Response 1, compose a script for a children’s sermon describing the congregation’s responsibility for the stewardship of the natural world.

### Section III: Application to Ministry

You, as pastor of Life Anew Presbyterian Church, and the high school youth group are planning a youth-led worship service. Questions arise.

Carrie: Pastor, do we have to follow the same order of worship that we do every week? It gets kind of boring. May we mix it up a bit?

Peter: I like that idea! Could we put the offering at the beginning and just get it out of the way?

Chung: Yeah, and then could the sermon come right after that? We could get that over with and then sing for the rest of the service. Singing is the best part of the service anyway.

**REQUIRED RESPONSES:** (*Total responses for this Section not to exceed 1,200 words.*)

1. Guided by the provisions of the Directory for Worship, write an essay articulating **an understanding of the ordering of Reformed worship**, making sure to address each of the issues raised in the discussion with the youth. All references to the Directory for Worship must cite the paragraph number (e.g., W-0.0000).
2. Informed by your answer in Required Response 1, write an annotated outline for a planning session with the high school youth at which you will help them create an order of worship. For the purposes of this exam, an annotated outline is one with explanatory notes.